

Congratulations on your upcoming special event and/or wedding! We're honored to have you consider Stehekin and North Cascades National Park as a destination for your celebration.

Stehekin is located at the north end of 55 mile long Lake Chelan, and is part of Lake Chelan National Recreation and North Cascades National Park. There are a number of beautiful sites within the park to hold events; however, because of Stehekin's remote location, some advance planning is required in order to adequately ensure the requirements for your event are addressed.

The following information is presented to you in an effort to help streamline the Special Use Permit application process and provide you with basic planning information for services in the Stehekin Valley.

Do I need a Special Use Permit to hold my event in Stehekin?

Any event that is held on public land requires a Special Use Permit prior to holding the event. A few popular outdoor locations that do require a permit are:

- A. Buckner Orchard
- B. Rainbow Falls
- C. Golden West Visitor Center

In general, events that are held on private property do not require a Special use Permit. It may be possible to hold your event at other locations in Stehekin, both on private property and on public land, so please contact us if you are uncertain regarding location or property ownership. For the three popular sites listed above, there are some specific conditions regarding the use of those sites that should be noted (see below for more information).

How much does it cost to obtain a Special Use Permit?

The National Park Service is required to recover costs associated with issuance of Special Use Permits. The cost of the Special Use Permit may vary, depending on the level of support or oversight by National Park staff. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$25 for all applications to be processed. Additional individual permit fees are assessed once the permit is issued. Once the application is processed, the Park's Concession Office will contract you if any additional information is required to assess the fees. A fee structure will also be included with the final Permit. Fees are due at the time the permit is signed. The application fee must be included with the completed application and sent back to the appropriate processing office.

How do I get a permit?

For Special Use Permits being issued for events in Stehekin, please contact the Park's Concession Specialist, Annelise Lesmeister, at 509/682-4921, or by email at Annelise_lesmeister@nps.gov.

What special conditions might be important for me to know prior to planning my event?

The following conditions apply to all events:

- The site of the event must be left unchanged; the ground may not be disturbed nor vegetation cut.
- The activity cannot unduly interfere with normal visitor enjoyment of the area. Rainbow Falls, the Buckner Orchard and Golden West Visitor Center are public areas and access to these areas may not be limited by the events of the permit holder. The permit holder is not guaranteed exclusive use of these sites.
- The Permittee is responsible for cleaning the site of all debris resulting from the event.

- Use of generators or sound amplifiers must be approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Participants cannot scatter or throw any organic material such as rice, birdseed, or flower petals, or inorganic material which cannot be entirely removed.
- If alcoholic beverages are served, the Permittee must have a Washington State banquet permit. This can be purchased at any state liquor store, preferably 3-4 days in advance. The permit is good for the date of the event only.
- If food service is included, a health inspection may be required.

Other conditions specific to each activity may be included in the Special Use Permit. For the popular event locations in Stehekin, the following conditions should be considered (additional conditions may apply, depending on the size and complexity of the permitted event):

GOLDEN WEST VISITOR CENTER

Special Events may be held at the Golden West Visitor Center during regular business hours, however, as stated above, the Permittee may not be granted exclusive use of this facility at any time the building is open to the public. During the summer months, the visitor center is open daily from 8:30 am until 5:00 pm. It is also open in the evenings for special programs. Public hours may be reduced during the shoulder seasons so if holding an event at the Golden West is a preference; it may be easier to coordinate use of the facility during non-public use hours October through May, rather than during peak season (June-September).

The only portion of the building that is available for use for Special Events is the visitor center area located on the first floor. This area has seating for up to roughly 75 people. Chairs and a limited number of folding tables may be available for use, although Permittees will need to check with park staff to ensure availability.

Food services may be provided but is best limited to light refreshments because there is no kitchen available. Catering services could be secured with other local businesses (See below for a list of food service providers in Stehekin). One restroom is located on the first floor, and additional restrooms are located on the ground level of the facility; access is external, but the restrooms are open 24/7.

Any event held within the Golden West Visitor Center requires a certain level of oversight by park staff. An NPS representative will be present at the building while the event is being held, but involvement with the event may be limited to set-up and take-down operations. The Permittee will be billed for staff time and oversight of the event.

All preparations (decorating, set-up etc.) and clean-up must be conducted by the Permittee. The Permittee is responsible for all trash removal and associated clean-up activities before and after the event.

Some restrictions on decorating may exist.

BUCKNER ORCHARD

Most events that are held at the Buckner Orchard include use of the old Packing Shed Platform and/or the hayfield adjacent to the Stehekin River.

The Packing Shed Platform (large cement platform with no walls or support structure) has been used for dancing and similar festivities. Use of generators is required for power as there is no electrical access at this location. Temporary lighting and décor may be used at this site. The site can accommodate groups of up to 150-200 people; however, there are some restrictions on parking and site access. For large groups, it is suggested that the Permittee arrange for carpool or bus services to transport guests to the Orchard for the planned event.

Food is allowed, but must be stored in rodent proof containers when not being eaten or served. Food cannot be stored at the site prior to the day of the event and must be removed immediately after.

All vehicles used for access to the site for event preparations and attendance must park on the established road, or its immediate shoulder.

Prior to the event, the Permittee is required to meet with the Stehekin District Resource Specialist to conduct a walk-through of the site for planning purposes. Because the Orchard is a culturally significant park resource, Park staff needs to be clear on boundaries and ensure that the planned activities do no disrupt damage or threaten the cultural sensitivity of the Orchard site.

The Service does not provide any equipment for events at this location (i.e. chairs, tables, sound equipment, etc.).

Restrooms consist of two outhouses. For large group activities, it is suggested that the permit consider renting portable toilets from a vendor in Chelan or Wenatchee.

RAINBOW FALLS

The Rainbow Falls site is open to the public at all times; there is no restricted public access to this location. In an effort to reduce the amount of public interaction with privately held events, the Permittee is encouraged to schedule events in the early morning or later afternoon or another period of time when visitor traffic is less. During the peak season, the heaviest traffic at this site occurs between the hours of 10:45 am and 2:30 pm when visitors disembark from the Lady Express and Lady II and take the Rainbow Falls Tour to the site.

Parking and space is limited at this location. Rainbow Falls is best suited for small groups who are prepared to stand - no more than 25 at the lower viewing platform and no more than 10 at the upper platform. There is limited seating at both lower and upper viewing sites (1 to 2 benches that can seat 2-4 people).

Depending on the time of year, the site may be wet (and loud) due to heavy run-off from snow melt. Permittees should plan their event with this understanding.

Food and beverage use should be limited at the viewing platforms, however, there is one large wooden picnic table located roughly 100 feet away from the Falls, which may be used by the Permittee.

Exclusive use is not guaranteed and site (and picnic table) cannot be “reserved”.

Can I reserve one of the popular locations for use for my event for a specific day and time?

The National Park Service will not reserve a site for you; however, the Service will generally not permit more than one activity at any location per day, unless the events are short enough in nature that permitting more than one activity can be done without conflict between Permittees. The Special Use Permits are issued on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Are Permits good for more than one day?

In general, the permit is issued for a period of time that includes sufficient time for set-up and take-down/clean up after the event. For events held at locations such as the Buckner Orchard, Permittees *may* be granted use of the site for 1-3 days to include time for rehearsals and event preparations. A three-day permit may not always be possible, and events scheduled for the Golden West Visitor Center are generally permitted for only a short period of time. Much of this depends on the complexity and size of the permitted event.

How do I get to Stehekin?

Stehekin is accessible by boat or floatplane. Schedules for both transportation services vary, depending on the time of year. You should review all transportation options carefully when considering how you and your guests will arrive in Stehekin. For information on schedules and pricing, please contact:

Lake Chelan Boat Company	www.ladyofthelake.com	509/682-2224
Chelan Seaplanes	www.chelanseaplanes.com	509/682-5555

Visitors and guests may hike into Stehekin as well. Access is roughly 20 miles from Highway 20. For information on hiking and camping options, please visit the North Cascades National Park website at <http://www.nps.gov/NOCA>.

Where can my guests and I stay and eat during our visit in Stehekin?

There are a number of private lodging establishments in Stehekin including one of the Park's concessioners, The Lodge at Stehekin. This facility is located at Stehekin Landing and has 28 rental units ranging from standard rooms to rooms with kitchens. The facility also has a full-service restaurant, general store that sells convenience items and gift merchandise. Small group meeting rooms are also available. The Lodge also provides transportation services throughout the Stehekin Valley and may have vehicles available to transport guests to and from events. For more information on the services provided by the Lodge at Stehekin, visit their website at www.lodgeatstehekin.com. The telephone number is 509/682-4494.

Some additional lodging establishments include Stehekin Valley Ranch and Silver Bay Inn. There are also a number of private rental cabins in the Stehekin Valley.

In addition to the Lodge, Stehekin Pastry Company and Stehekin Valley Ranch also provide food services for the public and may be available to provide limited catering for your special event. Please contact them directly for more information.

For a complete list of available services in Stehekin, visit www.stehekin.com.

Is there any place to rent event supplies and equipment (tables, chairs, tents, etc.) in Stehekin?

With the very limited exception of the Golden West Visitor Center, the Service does not provide equipment or supplies for special events. Depending on the nature of the event, some items (limited number of chairs and tables) may be provided by local businesses as part of their service offerings, but in general, the Permittee will need to consider renting the necessary equipment (tents, tables, chairs, if desired) from a rental company in the downlake communities of Chelan or Wenatchee. Rental equipment and large event structures (tents, etc.) must be transported by barge. Smaller supplies and equipment may be brought in via boat. Permittees should contract Tom Courtney Tug and Barge (509/682-2493) and Lake Chelan Boat Company for specific information on freight requirements, pricing and schedules.

What are the general weather conditions in Stehekin?

Weather conditions vary, depending on the season. If you are planning an outdoor event, consider that spring weather can vary significantly with windy days and temps in the mid-60s to low 70s in May and June. Rainy and colder temperatures could also be experienced early summer. The primary, warmer temperatures generally arrive (for good) by mid-July and range from high 70's to mid-80s and even 90's by late July. Generally the winds are not quite as strong and rain is limited to an occasional thunder storm. August temperatures are generally in the high 80s to low 90s, with occasional afternoon thunderstorms. September day-time temperatures remain in the 80s and nights are cooler. Outdoor events may easily be planned into Mid-October when the leaves begin to change and temperatures are still reasonable during the day. Winter events are possible, but consider winter conditions the norm (freezing temperatures with snow).